

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 2-5, 7, 12, and 13 are pending and under examination in the captioned application.

The Examiner has stated, "Claims 5, 7 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 5, 7 and 13 as the Examiner has suggested.

Further, Applicants have cancelled claims 2-4 and 12, without prejudice, to the filing of a continuation application directed to these claims.

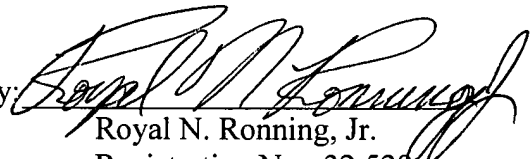
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the elected claims 5, 7 and 13 are in allowable form and earnestly solicit their allowance.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on December 16, 2004.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Melissa Leck